



**Nevada Children's Commission
Full Commission Meeting
Minutes**

DATE: Friday, October 11, 2019

TIME: 10:30 AM

LOCATIONS:

Division of Public and Behavioral Health
4150 Technology Way, Room 303
Carson City, Nevada 89706

Desert Regional Center
1391 S. Jones Boulevard
Las Vegas, Nevada 89146

1. Call to order- Justice Nancy Saitta, Justice Elissa Cadish, Ross Armstrong

The meeting was called to order at 10:31 a.m. by Justice Saitta.

2. Welcome and Introductions (Roll Call)- DCFS Staff

Members Present: Justice Nancy Saitta, Justice Elissa Cadish, Ross Armstrong, Senator Marilyn Dondero-Loop, Brigid Duffy, Katherine Malzahn-Bass, Megan Miller, Judge Michael Montero, Kimberly Palma Ortega, Sheila Parks, Judge Frank P. Sullivan, Denise Tanata, Judge William Voy, Assemblyman Steve Yeager

Members Absent: Nancy Brune, Margaret Crowley, Valerie Fujii, Dr. Joe Haas, Paula Hammack, Amber Howell, Judge Cynthia Lu, Assemblywoman Daniele Monroe-Moreno, Tina Moreno, Senator Keith Pickard, Judge Egan Walker, Janice Wolf

DCFS Staff: Krystal Castro

Roll call was taken and it was determined a quorum of the Nevada Children's Commission was present.

3. Public Comment and Discussion:

There was no public comment.

Justice Saitta introduced the Co-Chairs, Justice Cadish and Ross Armstrong.

4. For Possible Action: Meeting Minutes from August 9, 2019

Justice Saitta asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes. No recommendations were made.

Action: A motion was made by Assemblyman Yeager to approve the minutes, seconded by Brigid Duffy and carried to approve the minutes of August 9, 2019.

5. For Information: Community Improvement Council Summit Review

Katherine Malzahn-Bass informed the Community Improvement Council Summit was held at the end of September. One of the highlights was, David Kelly who oversees the CIP's across the country, gave the keynote address. Mr. Kelly observed what Nevada CIP and CIC's are doing is unprecedented. Mr. Kelly also explained the Children's Bureau new vision of the dependency system. Mr. Kelly concluded Nevada's outstanding work sets the state well on the path to embrace the new vision and moving forward with it. The program improvement plan items from the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) were addressed at the summit.

6. For Possible Action: Work Plan 2020

Ross Armstrong provided an overview of the Work Plan for 2020. The first column of the Workplan Overview lists the tasks the Commission is tasked with. In the first quarter, the focus will be on training development and technology and data sharing. In terms of task #1, the Commission will wait until the second quarter and work with the Court Improvement Project (CIP) to identify through surveys the need or priority for judicial reforms. From July through September, CIP will obtain priorities from other committees. Following the CIC Summit, a determination if reforms can be achieved through training, court rules, or NRS. The second item is training development. The first quarter will be working on inventory of training which will include NRS or NAC requirements and inventory of the training platforms. As we move through the year to identify and prioritize gaps to include research on evidence based or best practice trainings. During the third quarter, the plan is to develop an implementation plan and in the final quarter finalize the implementation plan. Task #3, technology and data sharing, the first quarter is an inventory of current technology and data systems. The second quarter is the identification of gaps. The third quarter involves applying and filling the gaps. The fourth quarter is identifying the implementation plan and working on it. With technology and data sharing, Ross Armstrong suggested ensuring real barriers to data sharing are included. For task #4, public awareness of challenges facing children and families, there are no activities in the first quarter. In the second quarter, the plan is to develop a presentation for the Interim Committee on Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice. In the third quarter, develop a public awareness plan for the 2021 calendar and finalize the plan in the fourth quarter.

The focus for the meeting in March will be Committee report out and presentations from other child/family serving committees. In the June meeting, gaps will be prioritized into actual items as we move into the third quarter. During the September meeting, work on aligning with CIC. In the December meeting, an approval and implementation of public awareness plans.

Page 2 of the Workplan lists objectives for the remainder of the year. For the December meeting, identification of funding priorities will need to be completed and the message delivered to the Department of Health and Human Services.

Judge Voy asked if the other entities such as juvenile justice system, children's mental health and education will be included.

Justice Saitta replied the juvenile justice, children's mental health and education will continue to be a part of the program.

Action: A motion was made by Brigid Duffy to approve the 2020 Workplan Overview, seconded by Senator Dondero-Loop and carried to approve the 2020 Workplan Overview.

Justice Saitta reminded Commission members of the Committee assignments from the August 9th meeting. The Juvenile Justice Committee includes Judge Voy, Judge Walker and Frank Cervantes. The Child Welfare Committee includes Megan Miller, Tim Burch, Judge Lu, and Amber Howell. The Behavioral Health Committee includes Dr. Haas, Dr. Wade, and Tina Moreno. The Education Committee includes Nancy Brune, Senator Marilyn Dondero-Loop, Kimberly Palma-Ortega, and Karen Pruitt. The Court Improvement Program Committee includes Katherine Malzahn-Bass and Judge Montero. Justice Saitta asked the Chairs of the Committees to setup a meeting date from now to the end of the year and plan on a first meeting in January.

7. For Information: Legislative Affairs

Ross Armstrong stated during interim, between when the legislature meets there is an Interim Committee on Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice. Senator Ohrenschall is the Chair of the Interim Committee. Ross has reached out to the Chair to let him know DCFS and the Children's Commission itself stands ready to assist the Committee with any agenda building, research, data, or presentations they may need during the interim. The Committee currently does not have any meetings scheduled however, the Division will keep the Commission up to date when those meetings are scheduled and what the agenda items are. There is another Interim Committee, the Interim Committee on Health Care. The Interim Committee on Health Care meets every month, starting in November and may touch on children's health issues. The Division will monitor the agendas and keep the Commission up to date as there are agenda items relating to the Commission.

Justice Saitta inquired if Ross would keep the Commission updated on membership and meeting dates for the Interim Committees.

Ross Armstrong replied he would keep the Commission updated on the Interim Committees.

Ross Armstrong informed the executive branch agencies budget building process has begun for the next session. One of the objectives for the Commission for the remainder of 2019, is to provide a letter to the Department of Health and Human Services with identified funding priorities. Ross Armstrong suggested the letter be approved at the next meeting. An informal budget request for priorities should be completed by December 15th to allow consideration during the budget building process.

Brigid Duffy commented there were at least 3 bills that created workgroups in the last session which will be gear headed by DCFS. The bills are sex trafficking, ACLU, and Assembly Bill 350. Brigid Duffy asked if those bills will be impacted by this budget cycle and how will we know what to ask for in the budget.

Ross Armstrong stated the Commercially Sexually Exploitation Children population support and services and the bill about Extended Foster Care support and services are overseeing by DCFS. The DCFS budget will need to be in by March and legislation is set for October, as the deadline for those requiring budgetary packages. Both reports due in October from DCFS go to the Interim Committee on Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice. Some planning will need to take place in the budget requests. The study of Juvenile Justice Correctional Placements and the study to bring more federal funding into the child welfare system were assigned to the Interim Committee on Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice. The Committee will be hiring staff to fund those

studies. Ross Armstrong informed an audit firm reached out to him about federal funding for child welfare and he referred them to the policy analyst assigned to the Committee.

8. For Possible Action: Discuss and Decide Upon Next Steps

- Assign Tasks to the Committee Members- The Workplan took care of this action item. There were no additional tasks to be assigned.
- Specify Agenda Items for the Next Meeting
 1. Inspire presentation- Judge Walker
 2. DCFS Budget Overview- Ross Armstrong
 3. Approval of letter to the Department of Health and Human Services with funding priorities

The next meeting date for the Children’s Commission will be Friday, December 13, 2019 at 10:30 a.m.

9. Public Comment and Discussion:

Ross Armstrong informed the Commission, Krystal Castro is departing state service and thanked her for her service.

Assemblyman Yeager commented he will be participating in the 3rd annual Donut Challenge.

Sheila Parks informed Assemblyman Thompson was nominated for a school name. There will be a meeting on December 14th at 5:30pm at the Education Center on Flamingo Avenue if anyone is interested in supporting Assemblyman Thompson.

Judge Montero stated the therapy dog, Gracie, used in their dependency cases in Winnemucca and the Humboldt County School District was brought to the CIC Summit.

Jane Saint commented if anyone would like to see pictures of Gracie, they are on the Nevada CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) Association Facebook page.

10. Adjourn

A motion was made by Senator Dondero-Loop to adjourn, seconded by Judge Voy, and carried to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.